MDE

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
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ORIGINAL

May 26, 2005

Ms. Lorie Baker
Maryland Project Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Ms. Baker:

Enclosed are the draft Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) report and Hazard Ranking System score information and pathway data sheets for the Rt. 7 Dump/New Jersey Fireworks site (MD-075), prepared by the Maryland Department of the Environment, Federal Superfund Division (MDE).

In August 2004, MDE initiated this ESI of the former Rt. 7 Dump and New Jersey Fireworks site in response to the recent discovery of perchlorate contamination in nearby community wells. This ESI assesses potential releases from the likely source areas, principally the former Rt. 7 Dump known to have received munitions and fireworks manufacturing wastes and the New Jersey Fireworks sparkler building area. Results of the investigation identified low level perchlorate contamination in the surface soil near the former Rt. 7 Dump area. Elevated levels of perchlorate contamination were identified in the New Jersey Fireworks production well, the soil and groundwater near the sparkler building and in a monitoring well approximately 1,000 feet east of the sparkler building area (along the likely easterly/southeasterly direction of groundwater flow). Perchlorate contamination was also identified in the surface water and sediment samples collected in an unnamed tributary of Mill Creek near the sparkler building area. Additionally, the soil sampling identified elevated levels of metals (arsenic, barium, lead, and mercury) above MDE and/or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards, especially near the sparkler building (barium at 47,600 parts per million).

The Toxicological Evaluation of the chemical analyses from the samples collected during the ESI utilized a commercial use scenario and revealed exceedances for noncarcinogenic and carcinogenic risks to child and youth visitor populations, and to the adult and construction worker populations. Exposure pathways that potentially present unacceptable risk due to the contamination that was detected on site are from one or more of the following: ingestion of, and dermal contact with the soil and groundwater due to barium, chromium, arsenic and/or potential

additive effects. Based upon the potential unacceptable level of risk from exposure to the contamination that was detected on site, MDE is requiring that the property owner conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study to fully investigate the contamination discovered at the sparkler building in order to develop a remediation plan to fully address the release into the environment.

If you have additional questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (410) 537-3440.

Sincerely,

Phillip Anderson

Phillip Anderson, Project Manager
Brownfields/Site Assessment Section

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Horacio Tablada
Mr. James Carroll
Mr. Kim Lemaster
Ms. Patti Davis